OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM DE RUEHJA #1982/01 3011044 ZNY CCCCC ZZH O 271044Z OCT 08 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0424 INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5531 RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3202 RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1395 RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1369 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0896 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2355 RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 4054 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5048 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2646 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3195RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 3050 RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 1224 RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 001982

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/27/2018
TAGS: <u>PGOV PTER KJUS PREL ID AS</u>

SUBJECT: GOI SAYS BALI BOMBERS WILL BE EXECUTED IN EARLY

NOVEMBER

REF: JAKARTA 1950 AND PREVIOUS

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Classified By: Pol/C Joseph L. Novak, reasons 1.4(b+d).

- 11. (C) SUMMARY: The Indonesian Attorney General's Office (AGO) announced on October 24 that the executions of the Bali bombers would take place during the first week of November. Multiple Mission contacts report that preparations are being made, though they do not know the exact date when the executions might take place.
- 12. (C) SUMMARY (Con'd): A small militant group and other Bali bombers sympathizers have announced plans to protest near the presumed execution site (an island prison located off of central Java). That said, the GOI does not foresee any serious domestic reaction if the executions take place. Despite the recent GOI announcement, many observers still see a real possibility that the executions could be further delayed due to political or other factors. In the event the executions take place, Mission plans to issue the Warden Notice that has been pre-cleared with the Department. END SUMMARY.

GOI ANNOUNCES EXECUTION TIMEFRAME

13. (SBU) For the first time, the GOI has announced an execution timeframe for the Bali bombers. The AGO announced on October 24 that the Bali bombers--Amrozi (one name only), Imam Samudra and Ali Gufron (a.k.a. "Mukhlas")--would be executed in early November on the prison island of Nusa Kambangan located off of central Java. The three received

death sentences for their roles in the October 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people and injured and maimed dozens. After Constitutional Court and Supreme Court rulings (see reftels), the three now appear to have exhausted all forms of appeal. Security on Nusa Kambangan has been tightened by the GOI. In order to prevent possible disruptions, for example, visitors are reportedly banned from entering the island.

(C) Mission contacts have confirmed the information that was announced to the press. That said, they could not confirm the exact date of the planned executions (though some contacts have conjectured that November 1-2 are possible dates). Ansyaad Mbai at the Counter Terrorism Coordinating Desk stated that he expected the executions would take place in early November, but he had not received advance notice of the exact date. Contacts with the execution squad have also denied receiving advance notice of the timing of the executions, although contacts at the British Embassy have reported that execution-related materials were sent to the island on October 27. Because the AGO is required to give the families 72-hours notice in advance of the executions, some contacts speculate that the attorneys of the Bali bombers (who are committed Islamists themselves) might make the date public in order to stimulate anti-government protests.

POSSIBLE REACTION?

15. (C) The GOI says it is not worried about any backlash possibly sparked by the executions. Some local media reports, however, have expressed concern that the execution

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of the three men could turn the Bali bombers into "martyrs" in the eyes of Islamic militants. While the vast majority of Indonesians condemn the terrorists and their actions, the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), a small militant group, and some other like-minded extremists have pledged to send supporters to the area of the prison to protest, for example.

16. (C) The Australian government has added the announcement of the planned executions to its list of justifications for its travel advisory for Indonesia. Although the UK has not changed its overall threat assessment for Indonesia, the announcement re the executions was added to its list of justifications for the travel advisory for parts of Indonesia. Despite media reports that Prince Charles would cancel his travel to Indonesia from November 1st through the 5th, contacts at the British Embassy told us that his travel plans remain unchanged.

WARDEN NOTICE READY

17. (C) Despite the recent GOI announcement, many observers still see a real possibility that the executions could be further delayed due to political or other factors. Mission will continue to monitor the situation carefully. In the event the executions take place, Mission plans to issue the Warden Notice that has been pre-cleared with the Department.

HUME